

Colossians



At the Center of it All

Christ at the Center of our Work

Col 3:22-4:1

Colossians 3:22-4:1

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4:1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Colossians Recap

Colossians 1: Jesus Christ is **Supreme** (Ruler of All)

Colossians 2: Jesus Christ is **Sufficient** (More than Enough)

Therefore...

Colossians 3: If you've been made alive in Christ, live with **Him at the center** in everything you do.

“3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus..”

OUTLINE

1. WHY we work
2. The WAY we should work
3. God at Work

1 Why we work

Genesis 1:27-28

*27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

1 Why we work

Work is **From God**

He employs us to work

He empowers us to work

1 Why we work

Work is From God and **For God**

For **His Name**

For **His Nearness**

A quick word on Slavery in the Roman World

- Unlike American Slavery, Greco-Roman Slavery was *NOT based on race*
- Similar to American Slavery, Greco-Roman Slavery was *mostly dehumanizing and abusive*
- Unlike American Slavery, Greco-Roman Slavery was *unopposed until the rise of Christianity*

The WAY we should work

Command #1 (to Bondservants/Employees)

“obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.”

Command #2 (to Bondservants/Employees)

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,”

Command #3 (to Masters/Bosses)

“Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly.”

What's WRONG with our work?

Genesis 3:17-19

17 “Because you have...eaten of the tree of which I commanded you,

‘You shall not eat of it,’

cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

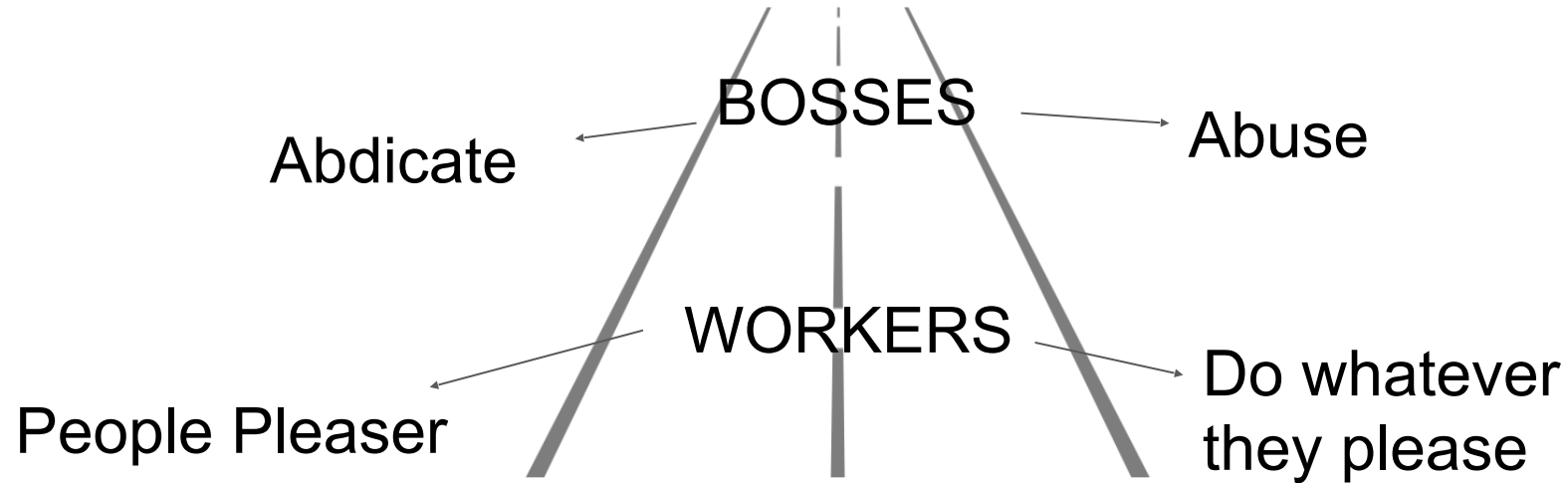
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread,

What's WRONG with our work?



GOD at WORK

***God redeems us
and our work!***

Colossians 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance of the Lord Christ.

Colossians 1:12 giving thanks to **the Father**, who has **qualified** you to share in the **inheritance** of the saints in light.

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have **redemption, the forgiveness of sins**.

God's Work

Philippians 2:8-10

8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest
place
and gave him the name that is above
every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee
should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the
earth,

GOD's WORK

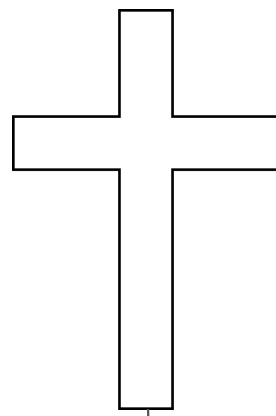
3:25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Jesus impartially purifies our work.

GOD's WORK

Colossians 4:1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Jesus is on the Throne and watching all our work until He returns to judge and perfectly restore all our work.



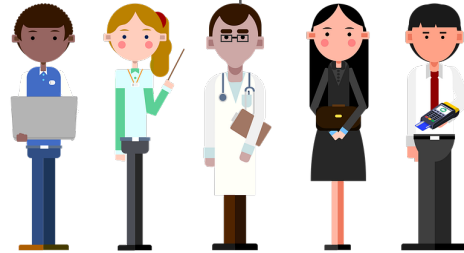
Employed by
Christ

For the Name of
Christ!

Our work is
FROM Christ

Our work is
FOR Christ

Empowered
by Christ



For Nearness
to Christ